

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

51. (Currently amended) A method for facilitating the sale of an item, comprising:
initiating an auction for an item;
receiving a bid for the item, the bid made by a bidding auction participant;
identifying a transformation function associated with the bid;
applying the transformation function to the bid to produce a transformed bid;
updating a state of the auction based on the transformed bid; and
generating status data representing the updated state of the auction,
wherein the transformation function is based on attribute information comprising at least one of shipping costs, handling charges, and a preferred shipping mode.
52. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 51, further comprising:
receiving a status request from a requesting auction participant;
identifying a second transformation function associated with the status request;
applying the second transformation function to the status data to produce a transformed status; and
displaying the transformed status to the requesting auction participant,
wherein the second transformation function is based on attribute information comprising at least one of shipping costs, handling charges, and a preferred shipping mode.
53. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 52, wherein the auction is a sell-side auction and wherein the bid is an offer to purchase, and wherein the bidding auction participant is a buyer.
54. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 53, further comprising:
registering a seller as a participant in the auction;

identifying at least one seller-associated transformation; and
establishing sell-side auction rules.

55. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 54, wherein the requesting auction participant is a seller, and the second transformation function applied to the status data is the at least one seller-associated transformation.

56. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 54, further comprising:
registering at least one buyer desiring the item; and
identifying at least one buyer-associated transformation for the at least one registered buyer.

57. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 56, wherein the transformation function applied to the bid is the at least one buyer-associated transformation.

58. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 56, wherein the requesting auction participant is a buyer, and the second transformation function applied to the status data is the at least one buyer-associated transformation.

59. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 53, further comprising receiving and transforming multiple bids wherein updating the state of the auction further comprises:
comparing the multiple transformed bids to determine which bid is the current best bid;
and
updating the state of the auction to identify the current best bid.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising:
awarding the item to the buyer for the terms set forth in the bid if the transformed bid is the current best bid at an end of a bidding period for the item.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising:

identifying a winning buyer associated with a current best bid at the end of the auction;
and

notifying the winning buyer of the successful current best bid.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising:
notifying the seller of the winning buyer and the successful bid.

63. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 52, wherein the auction is a buy-side auction
and wherein the bid is an offer to sell, and wherein the bidding auction participant is a seller.

64. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 63, further comprising:
registering a buyer as a participant in the auction;
identifying at least one buyer-associated transformation; and
establishing buy-side auction rules.

65. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 64, wherein the requesting auction participant
is a buyer, and the second transformation function applied to the status data is the at least one
buyer-associated transformation.

66. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 64, further comprising:
registering at least one seller offering the item; and
identifying at least one seller-associated transformation for the at least one registered
seller.

67. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 66, wherein the transformation function
applied to the bid is the at least one seller-associated transformation.

68. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 66, wherein the requesting auction participant
is a seller, and the second transformation function applied to the status data is the at least one
seller-associated transformation.

69. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 63, further comprising receiving and transforming multiple bids wherein updating the state of the auction further comprises:
comparing the multiple transformed bids to determine which bid is the current best bid;
and
updating the state of the auction to identify the current best bid.
70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, further comprising:
awarding the sale of the item to the seller for the terms set forth in the bid if the transformed bid is the current best bid at an end of a bidding period for the item.
71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 63, further comprising:
identifying a winning seller associated with a current best bid at the end of the auction;
and
notifying the winning seller of the successful current best bid.
72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, further comprising:
notifying the buyer of the winning seller and the successful current best bid.
73. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 52, wherein the auction is a two-sided auction and wherein the bid is at least one of an offer to buy and an offer to sell, and wherein the bidding auction participant is at least one of a seller and a buyer.
74. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 73, further comprising:
registering at least one buyer and at least one seller of the item;
identifying at least one associated transformation for the at least one buyer and the at least one seller; and
establishing two-sided auction rules.
75. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 74, wherein the requesting auction participant is a buyer, and the second transformation function applied to the status data is the at least one identified transformation associated with the buyer.

76. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 74, wherein the requesting auction participant is a seller, and the second transformation function applied to the status data is the at least one identified transformation associated with the seller.

77. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 74, wherein the bidding auction participant is a buyer, and the transformation function applied to the bid is the at least one identified transformation associated with the buyer.

78. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 74, wherein the bidding auction participant is a seller, and the transformation function applied to the bid is the at least one identified transformation associated with the seller.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 73, further comprising:
comparing the transformed buyer and seller bids to determine if there is a match;
binding a buyer and a seller for the terms set forth in their respective bids if their respective transformed bids match.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:
notifying the buyer and the seller associated with the matched bids that the bids have been matched.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the bidding auction participant and the requesting auction participant are the same auction participant.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the applying the transformation function to the bid further comprises:

identifying a desired configuration associated with the bid; and
modifying the bid to reflect the desired configuration.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 82, wherein the modifying the bid further comprises:

comparing the desired configuration with price information to determine a price differential; and

combining the price differential with a bid price to generate the modified bid.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the transformation function is a financial function.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84, wherein the financing function includes at least a first parameter identifying a type of financing instrument.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84, wherein the financing function includes information identifying at least one financing term.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84, wherein the identifying a financing function further comprises:

receiving a request to establish a financing function;

identifying a type of the financing function;

identifying at least a first term of the financing function; and

associating the financing function with the auction participant.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, wherein the identifying a type of the financing function includes presenting a listing of available types to the participant for selection.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, wherein the identifying at least a first term of the financing function includes presenting a listing of available terms to the participant for selection.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 84, wherein the identifying a financing function further comprises:

searching a plurality of pre-established financing functions.

91. (Currently Amended) A method for participating in an auction, comprising:
registering to participate in an auction;
establishing at least a first transformation function for use in the auction;
submitting a bid on an item, the bid operated on by the at least a first transformation function to create a transformed bid; and
receiving a status of the auction, the status reflecting the transformed bid,
wherein the at least a first transformation function is based on attribute information comprising at least one of shipping costs, handling charges, and a preferred shipping mode.
92. (Currently Amended) An exchange registration method, comprising:
receiving information identifying a participant; and
establishing, based at least in part on the information identifying the participant, at least one transformation function for the participant, the at least one transformation function for use in transforming bids made by the participant in at least one exchange,
wherein the at least a first transformation function is based on attribute information comprising at least one of shipping costs, handling charges, and a preferred shipping mode.
93. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting an exchange, comprising:
receiving, from a first buyer, a first bid for an item;
identifying a transformation function associated with the first bid;
applying the transformation function to the first bid to produce a first transformed bid;
receiving, from a second buyer, a second bid for the item;
identifying a second transformation function associated with the second bid;
applying the second transformation function to the second bid to produce a second transformed bid; and
comparing the first and second transformed bids and accepting the best as the current best bid of the exchange

wherein the first transformation function is based on attribute information comprising at least one of shipping costs, handling charges, and a preferred shipping mode, and

wherein the second transformation function is based on attribute information comprising at least one of shipping costs, handling charges, and a preferred shipping mode.

94. – 106. (Cancelled)